From: John Roberts
To: City Council
Subject: HP Resolution
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:08:04 AM

Dear Mayor McGovern, Vice Mayor Devereaux, and Cambridge City Councilors: I write in support of the resolution to be brought before the Council on April 23 calling for an end to Cambridge's contracting with the Hewlett Packard Corporation, which provides much of the technology that controls the mechanisms for Israel's military occupation and colonization of the Palestinian People.

In 2009 I went on a fifteen-person delegation from Cambridge to Bethlehem, Palestine. The purpose of the trip was to establish a Cambridge-Bethlehem people to people relationship and we carried resolution-greetings from our Mayor and City Council. That trip resulted in the creation of the Cambridge Bethlehem People to Project that led to a variety of visitations, trips and projects between the two cities which exists to this day.

Through this relationship we have witnessed the brutality of the Israeli colonization and military occupation of the Palestinian homeland and the continuing confiscation of their land through illegal settlements, construction of a separation wall on their land, and plethora of checkpoints, which separates towns and villages from each other and often farmers from their land.

By international law, people living under occupation have the right to resist, and Palestinian civil society is doing so through its call to support its non-violent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign.

Cambridge played a major role in challenging apartheid South Africa when it supported the workers who challenged Polaroid's development and sale of products that provided the mechanisms for the pass book system and others means to surveille and control the Black population. As parents we cheered when our kids at CRLS took up the Polaroid fight and the South African anti apartheid campaign played a major role in their education. They talk about it to this day.

In that spirit of the Polaroid campaign, and as people committed to Human Rights, we must now challenge the corporation that is providing Israel with the surveillance and security tools to maintain the occupation of the Palestinian people. Cambridge must take a stand for human rights by refusing to support the Hewlett Packard Corporation.

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